

REMARKS

Claims 10-20 are currently pending in this application.

The Examiner indicated that claims 13, 17 and 18 are allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claim 13 into claim 19 which incorporates claim 13 and most portions of claim 10, and has rewritten claim 17 into claim 20 which incorporates claim 17 and most portions of claim 10. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 19 and 20 are also patentable.

The Examiner objected to claim 10 because "the imaging optical elements" lacks an antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 10 provide the necessary antecedent basis. The Examiner also objected to claim 12 because "the spectral areas" lacks an antecedent basis. Applicant has amended the dependency of claim 12 which should provide the proper antecedent basis.

More substantively, the Examiner rejected claims 10-12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Iketaki (US Patent No. 5022064). Although claim 10 has been amended, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the extent that the rejection applies to amended claim 10.

One feature according to the present invention of claim 10 is to provide a highly corrected (optimized) imaging system over the image field with a minimum of optical elements using "easy to produce" spherical optical elements and using a single wavelength. This feature allows production of an inexpensive EUV imaging system without using any "aspheric mirrors" which are very difficult to measure and produce.

By contrast, the Iketaki device uses two different wavelengths in the imaging system. The use of two wavelengths means that it is very difficult to focus both X-rays at the same time (see col. 2, line 41-45). Because the emitting lights are at different wavelengths and because the reflection band for the coating for the mirror is too narrow at such ultra short wavelengths, the Iketaki device divides the system mirrors in sections and each section has a coating which is optimized to one wavelength.

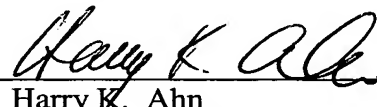
Because the present invention is designed to operate with only one wavelength, there is no such problem as disclosed in the Iketaki device. Claim 10 has been amended to recite ". . . the imaging optical elements in the beam path having a diffractive-

reflective structure **that reflects the EUV radiation having the single wavelength**" to clearly recite that the imaging system uses a single wavelength. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 10 is patentable over the Iketaki reference.

Claims 11-12 and 14-16 are also believed to be patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 10.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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